

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Hero with learning disabilities honoured**

A man with learning disabilities has been hailed a hero at a presentation to recognise his efforts in helping a member of his support staff following a fall.

Mr Joe Ferris, who lives in supported accommodation in Didsbury, has been honoured for his quick thinking and decisive action for the way he helped Ms Liz Jesse Almeida after she had fallen down some steps. Joe heard Liz shout for help and went to see if she was ok. He then carried her back up the stairs, made sure she was comfortable and then dialled the emergency services.

Joe telephoned the emergency services and described what had happened. The operator was then able to instruct Joe on what action to take and how to make sure Liz would be ok until an ambulance arrived. This included talking to Liz to take her mind off the fall and making a sweet cup of tea.

Joe was presented with a certificate and a giant box of chocolate Miniature Heroes, his own choice of reward. The presentation was made by Liz and other members of staff at Calderstones NHS Trust including Graham Parr, Chairman and Russ Pearce, Chief Executive.

Joe said: "My heroes are Wayne Rooney and Ryan Giggs and I am really pleased to now also be called a hero and given this award. When I heard Liz fall I picked her up and did what I could to make sure she is ok. My cousin is in the ambulance service and he is also a hero so I knew what to do. When the ambulance arrived I was also able to say what had happened and this helped when they took her to hospital."

Liz said: "I am really grateful to Joe and is rightly being hailed for his bravery. In fact he was so excited about the presentation that he bought a new shirt and tie and has been singing the well known song 'Hero'.

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“Joe has lived in this supported accommodation for nearly a year and in that time he has really made significant progress. The fact that he didn’t panic and used his common sense to help me in the way that he did means that this accolade is richly deserved.”

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***Notes to editors: For more information please contact Stephen Lightbown, the Calderstones NHS Trust Communications Manager, on 01254 821133.  
1. Photograph shows Joe Ferris (left) being congratulated on his efforts by Graham Parr, Chairman at Calderstones NHS Trust.***